



Eatontown Community Garden Rules

Clear rules are helpful to a garden's success. They create a uniform understanding of all the expectations within a garden community.

It's important to read over these rules and share them with all members of the family or group with whom you plan to garden.

Our goal is to ensure an enjoyable gardening experience for you and our community. For these reasons, observe the rules and be a good neighbor. The garden should be a safe place for the community, children, and other gardeners. We ask that you don't bring anything that compromises the safety of the garden and its participants. The rules may be modified to better suit us as we grow this program.

The Garden Committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions for the garden between meetings of all gardeners. They also have the authority to resolve conflicts. The Garden Committee can be reached at communitygarden@eatontownnj.com.

GARDEN RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. All gardeners must **apply each year** for a plot but returning gardeners will be given first preference and every attempt will be made for a returning gardener to keep the same plot if they wish. The number of plots per gardener may be limited according to demand.
 - a. Near the end of the garden season, current gardeners will be given the opportunity to **pre-pay** for their plot for the following season.
 - b. **Maximum** of (6) 4'x20' plots per household.
2. We encourage all registered gardeners to attend the **organizational meeting** prior to the planting season. We'll tour the garden site, meet fellow gardeners, and address any questions or concerns of the group. This is the perfect opportunity to get to know one another!
3. The garden gate must be kept closed at all times. Lock the gate when you are last to leave. All gardeners will be provided with the combination. We ask that you keep the garden code confidential.
4. Your entire family is encouraged to participate! However, **children under the age of 13** must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
5. **You're responsible for your own plot and maintaining and weeding your bordering pathways.**
(Pathway Recommendation: lay down a layer of cardboard and woodchips. Woodchips are provided by the garden.)
 - a. Generally, we ask that you visit your plot at least once each week. If you're unable to care for your plot for a time because of illness or vacation, ask a fellow gardener for help with weeding and harvesting.
6. **If you decide not to use your plot**, please contact the Garden Committee so it may be reassigned to someone else. If there's no evidence of activity at your plot, it may be reassigned.

7. **Biodegradable mulch** such as compost, leaves, straw, and hay are encouraged. Carpet mulch isn't allowed. Non-organic materials are prohibited. Black plastic is allowed but must be removed at the end of the season.
8. **Planting of invasive species is prohibited.** For example: mint, catnip, Jerusalem artichokes, comfrey, and raspberries.
9. **The usage of containers** such as pots, planters, bottles, etc., for planting, is prohibited in the garden.
10. The stakes that mark your plot's corners have **your plot number and name** and must be left in place all season.
11. **Respect** your neighbor's garden by:
 - a. Refraining from picking their produce, even if you think they have neglected their plot.
 - b. Keeping tall plants such as corn or sunflowers at the center of your plot so they don't shade your neighbor's plants.
 - c. Be mindful of distancing when planting to avoid growth into neighboring plots and pathways.
12. **Water spigots** at the t-stands and the hydrants **must be turned off when not in use.**
13. Keep **plot boundaries** weeded and trash—free. Keep plot edges and fencing free of weeds that will go to seed. Please keep paths free of all debris.
14. Plant refuse piles are set up for weeds and diseased plants. Please use these designated bin(s) to dispose of them. Please don't discard trash or kitchen scraps in the piles.
15. We **"carry in and carry out"** our trash. Dispose of trash properly by taking it home and place all vegetative materials in the labeled bin(s).
16. The garden isn't available for commercial use; **do not sell your produce.**
 - a. If you have a surplus of vegetables or fruits, feel free to share them with your neighbors or contact the Eatontown Food Co-op at (732) 542-0882 to donate.
17. If you use the **garden's tools**, please clean them and return them to the storage area when you are done.
18. **Project proposals** (beyond a gardener's plot) must be presented to the Garden Committee for approval and oversight following the guidelines listed below:
 - a. Complete Project Proposal Request Form
 - b. Must be submitted for review at least one week prior to the Garden Committee Meeting to be placed on the Meeting Agenda.
 - c. If approved, the timeline will be determined based on overall project needs and DPW availability.

19. **Compost** will be made available in the garden by the DPW. *Please note: Weeds and diseased plants should be put in plant refuse piles—not on the compost pile.*
20. We're doing our best to maintain **organic-only** methods and products for use in this garden. Never use any herbicides (weed-killers). Pesticides are prohibited.
21. **Pets are NOT allowed** within the fenced-in garden area.
22. **The roadway into the garden is for drop-off only.** There are three handicapped parking spots located outside of the garden. You must have your handicap placard displayed. Until more parking becomes available, **all parking must be done at the Husky Brook parking lot.**

